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Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 02458 200706Z

21 R
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
---------- 100927
R 200505Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6793

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STADIS //

FOR CONSTABLE FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, ECON, BG
SUBJECT: BANGLADESH AID GROUP MEETING

1. YOUR 115091 HAS BEEN HAPPILY OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS
I WOULD LIKE NEVERTHELESS TO COMMENT BRIEFLY ON THE
MAIN ISSUE RAISED IN IT SINCE THIS IS AN ISSUE WHICH
MAY ARISE AGAIN IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER.

2. I AM GLAD YOU OPPOSED THE ADOPTION OF PUBLIC HARD
LINE AT THE PARIS MEETING. OF COURSE THERE SHOULD BE
A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE AMOUNT OF AID WE ARE
WILLING TO PROVIDE AND THE VIGOR WITH WHICH THE
BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO TRY TO PUT ITS
OWN HOUSE IN ORDER AND TAKE THE HARD ECONOMICAL POLICY
DECISIONS THAT THEIR ECONOMIC SITUATION REQUIRES.
AND THERE IS NO REASON WHY, IN OUR PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS
WITH THEM, WE SHOULD NOT EMPHASIZE IN A GENERAL WAY
THAT THIS LINE EXISTS.

3. BUT TO TAKE A TOUGH "EITHER OR" LINE WITH THEM
IN OUR PUBLIC MEETINGS IS BOTH UNNECESSARY (SINCE WE
CAN GET OUR MESSAGE EFFECTIVELY ACROSS IN PRIVATE) END
IS ALSO LIKELY, AS YOU SAY: TO AROUSE SENSITIVITIES
ABOUT NATIONAL HONOR. SUCH A POSTURE RUNS A RISK OF
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MAKING OUR POLITICAL RELATIONS HOSTAGE TO OUR AID

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RELATIONSHIP, WHICH IS IN MY VIEW AN UNTENABLE POSTURE.
AID REPRESENTS A GOOD DEAL OF THE EFFECTIVE CONTENT OF
OUR RELATIONSHIP TODAY BUT WE DO HAVE AN OVERRIDING
INTEREST IN MAINTAINING A DECENT POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP
WITH BANGLADESH WHETHER OUR ADVICE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS
IS TAKEN OR NOT.

4. I HAD MADE THIS POINT TO TONER IN EARLIER
DDISCUSSIONS WITH HIM AND I BELIEVE THAT ALL OF US HERE
SEE EYE TO EYE ON THIS APPROACH. THE OTHER ELEMENTS OF
YOUR MESSAGE--TO THE EXTENT THEY ARE STILL RELAVANT
AFTER THE FACT OF DEVALUATION--WILL BE ADDRESSED IN
SEPARATE MESSAGES NOW UNDER PREPARATION HERE.
BOSTER

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